

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEZIE WOODS-JONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dezie Woods-Jones for her lifetime of distinguished public service. She has been a tireless community activist, civic and educational leader for more than 40 years.

Dezie's long history of civic involvement began in high school, while working in the Civil Rights Movement. She served as President of the Fresno Youth Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), later becoming an organizer for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and a national fundraiser for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Ms. Woods-Jones has continued to demonstrate her commitment to social and economic equity by striving to empower women and working with young people. She joined the Peralta Community College District in 1969, as Director of the Merritt College Outreach Center. During her 34-year career, she served as an administrator of Student Services, Community Relations, and Governmental Affairs. First and foremost, however, Dezie considers herself an instructor and teacher. Indeed, she has taught all of us so much.

Ms. Woods-Jones was the first woman to run for the office of Mayor of Oakland. She was elected to the Oakland City Council in June of 1991 and served as the City's Vice Mayor from 1996–1997. While in office, Ms. Woods-Jones served as Chair of the Rules Committee, the Finance and Legislation Committee, and the Health and Human Services Committee. After her term ended, she returned to the Peralta Community College District and presided as Vice Chancellor for External Affairs.

Over the years, she has continued her community activism, working diligently on behalf of the underprivileged and disenfranchised, particularly on behalf of youth and women. Dezie Woods-Jones was a founding member of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) and has served as the organization's president for over 30 years. She is also founder of Black Women Organized for Educational Development and its outreach arm, the Black Women's Resource Center.

Ms. Woods-Jones' commitment to the Oakland/Bay Area community is indeed unparalleled. She has been part of the Alameda County Interagency Task Force, the Greater Oakland International Trade Center Board of Directors, Chair of the Oakland Community Policing Advisory Board, and President of the Oakland Private Industry Council. Her outstanding service has been recognized by the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the American Heart Association, the City and County of San Francisco, the City of Oakland, the State of California, and the Congress of the United States of America.

Finally, as we honor Dezie Woods-Jones today, I want to thank her on behalf of the entire 9th Congressional District of California for being a great friend and leader. Dezie has shared with me her wisdom and has given me support.

I have known Dezie since the early 1970's and continue to be inspired by her optimism, her energy, her boldness, her intellect, her heart, and her soul. Those who meet her cannot forget her incredible sense of style and exquisite hats. She is a true role model who continues to touch the lives of women—young and old—in magnificent ways. Her love for people transcends race and gender.

I take great pride in joining Ms. Woods-Jones' friends, family, and colleagues to salute the extraordinary Dezie Woods-Jones. Her Spirit soars even through difficult times. What a remarkable woman!

RESTORE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Yet the U.S. government is blocking aid to Haiti in order to expand the influence of a single Haitian political party. This party, known as the Democratic Convergence, is supported by only a small fraction of the Haitian electorate. Nevertheless, the Democratic Convergence and the Organization of American States raised questions about the May 21, 2000, elections in Haiti.

Meanwhile, Haiti's population is facing a serious humanitarian crisis. Haiti's per capita income is only \$460 per year. Four percent of the population is infected with the AIDS virus, and 163,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS. Every year, there are 30,000 new AIDS cases. The infant mortality rate is over seven percent. For every 1000 infants born in Haiti, five women die in childbirth. Furthermore, there are only 1.2 doctors for every 10,000 people in this desperately poor country.

Not only has the United States suspended development assistance to Haiti, the United States has been blocking loans from international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank. U.S. policy has effectively prevented Haiti from receiving \$146 million in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank that were already approved by that institution's Board of Directors. These loans are desperately needed by the people of Haiti.

The Board of Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank recently agreed to send a special mission to Haiti to review conditions for the renewal of lending to Haiti. This mission, which will take place later this month, is purely technical. Its purpose is twofold. First,

the mission's participants will reassess past loans to Haiti that are in arrears. Second, they will assess current efforts by the Haitian government to resolve the political crisis. Unfortunately, there is no indication that participants in this mission will discuss conditions for the restoration of loans or development assistance to Haiti.

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has taken several steps to address the concerns raised by the international community regarding the May 21, 2000, elections. Yet the U.S. government continues to refuse to negotiate with the Haitian government.

It is time for the United States to end this political impasse and restore development assistance to this impoverished democracy.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF WAVES

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to pay special tribute to WAVES, "Women Accepted For Voluntary Emergency Service", on the 60th anniversary of its incorporation. WAVES brings together all former, retired, and present Navy women, promotes the Navy and Navy women, serves women veterans, and supports the traditions and history of the Women of the United States Navy.

During World War I, while the Army remained committed to its prohibition against enlisted women, the Navy Department took advantage of the skills women offered by signing up 13,000 women into the Navy and the Marine Corps.

World War II marked a turning point in the history of women in the military. On July 30, 1942, Congress enacted legislation establishing a Women's Reserve for duty with the U.S. Navy stateside, and on August 3, 1942, WAVES was established. Women have continued to make invaluable contributions to the United States military ever since.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there are over 1,448,000 women veterans in this country, representing 5 percent of the total veteran population. Women have served in and with the military services since our country was founded. As medics, mechanics, postal workers, clerks, cooks, or MP's, women have contributed and continue to contribute mightily to our national defense in times of both war and peace. Women veterans have served proudly in nearly every United States military action risking their lives in the service of their country.

I am proud to have the Finger Lakes Unit #49 of WAVES National, with members from Rochester and surrounding towns, as an active organization in my district. Our local unit carries out national programs with special emphasis on service to women veterans in VA

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